



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Note: A copy of the court documents related to this case, in PDF format, will be available to download from the district's Web site at [www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)*

## **WARIS PLEADS GUILTY TO LYING TO FBI AGENTS**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Jackson County, Mo., official pleaded guilty in federal court today to making a material false statement to FBI agents.

**William F. "Bill" Waris**, 61, of Kansas City, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. Magistrate Judge Sarah W. Hays this morning to a federal information that charges him with making a material false statement to FBI agents. Under the terms of today's plea agreement, Graves explained, the government will dismiss the Nov. 17, 2004, federal indictment for which **Waris** was scheduled to begin trial on July 5, 2005. **Waris**, a former county executive, is a lobbyist for Jackson County.

"Every citizen has a legal obligation to cooperate fully and honestly with any law enforcement investigation," Graves said. "Lying to federal agents is a criminal act that will be prosecuted."

By pleading guilty today, Graves said, **Waris** admitted that he made a material false statement to FBI agents on March 12, 2004, in connection with an investigation into theft or bribery by an official with the Jackson County government related to programs receiving federal funds. **Waris** told the agents, falsely, that he was not present during a conference call between that Jackson County official and others which occurred on Oct. 6, 2003. In fact, Graves said, **Waris** knew his statement was false and that he was present during the conference call.

"I'm pleased with this guilty plea," Graves said. "We are seeking the truth, wherever it may lead. **Waris** has now admitted that the story he told FBI agents was not truthful. The

advantage of today's plea agreement is that it forces **Waris** to provide substantial assistance with any federal investigation by fully and truthfully disclosing everything he knows related to the investigation, including testifying before the grand jury or at trial.

"Today's guilty plea holds **Waris** accountable for his actions," Graves added, "and sends a clear signal that we are serious about upholding the integrity of the judicial process. We will vigorously prosecute those who interfere with the process of justice."

Under federal statutes, **Waris** could be subject to a sentence of up to five years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney William L. Meiners and Deputy U.S. Attorney Matt Whitworth. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)